

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00

EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01

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R 282114Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5608
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMMBASSY QUITO 914
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8415

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJ: TALKS WITH MEXICO RE TUNA, 24 AUGUST 1974

REF: CARACAS 7444

1. U.S. AND MEXICAN REPS MET ON 24 AUGUST TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION
RE THE TUNA ISSUE IN BOTH AN LOS AND IATTC CONTEXT. PRESENT WERE
JOHN N. MOORE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE; DONALD L. MCKERNAN,
CONSULTANT, STATE DEPARTMENT; MORRIS D. BUSBY, S/FW-COA STATE
DEPARTMENT; VIRGIL RANDOLPH, AMEMBASSY CARACAS; MANUEL MONDRAGON,
MEXICAN FISHERY AGENCY; AND LIC. ELIAS CARDENAS, MEXICAN DELEGATION.

2. MONDRAGON INTIALLY INTRODUCED CARDENAS AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SR MEDINA-NERI, OF THE MEXICAN FISHER AGENCY. HE THEN
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STATED THAT THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE APPROACH TAKEN IN THE

U.S DRAFT ARTICLES ON THE ECONOMIC ZONE(L.47) AND EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE GOM CONSIDERED IT A VERY IMPORT DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD BE STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY IN MEXICO CITY. HIS OWN IMPRESSION WAS THAT L.47 COULD BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR A U.S. MEXI CAN AGREEMENT IF WE SO DECIDED.

3. CONCERNING IATTC, THE MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT SOME MODIFICATIONS WERE REUIRED IN THE CONVENTION. THEY VIEWED WITH SYMPATHY A CONTINUATION OF THE TREATY, BUT WANT IT MODIFIED SO AS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MEXICO'S EXPANDING FLEET AND GROWING ECONOMY. MONDRAGON STATED THAT IF L.47 REPRESENTED THE U.S. POSITION ON HOW TUNA WOULD BE HANDLED IN IATTC, IT WOULD VER VERY USEFUL IN RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY. CONCERN- ING THIS, THE MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES SAID THIS WAS PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S DECISION. AND SEEMED UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER HE INTENDED FOR IT TO BE ACCOMPLISHED PIROR TO THE NEXT FISHING SEASON, OR INTENDED TO WAIT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR. TO SUPPORT THIS, THEY POINTED OUT THE VAGARIES IN HIS STATEMENT BEFORE THE LOS CONFERENCE. WHEN THE U.S. SIDE REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR CASTANEDA'S REMARKS ON 30 JULY (REPORTED REFTEL), THE MEXICAN REPS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH CASTANEDA WAS THEIR FOREMOST LOS EXPERT, HE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IATTC NEGOTIATIONS AND ANYTHING HE HAD SAID WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO THEIR STATEMENTS WAS SIMPLY NOT THE GOM POSITION. MONDRAGON ADDED THAT HE HAD INITIALLY REFUSED TO ACCOMPANY CASTANEDA TO THE 30 JULY MEETING, INDICATING THAT HE HAD NOT WANTED TO BE BOUND BY ANY STATEMENTS HE MADE ON FISHERIES.

4. CARDENAS THEN MADE REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN U.S./MEXICO ON TUNA IN MEXICO CITY. HE STATED THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THE MEETING WOULD BE HOLD (AT THE U.S. REQUEST) 21-23 SEPTEMBER. IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. QUESTION, HE STATED THAT THE GOM WISHED TO DISCUSS THE MEXICAN QUOTA FOR THE COMING YEAR, AND U.S. AND MEXICAN INTERESTS IN IATTC. HE AGREED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD NOT DISCUSS A RE-NEGOTIATION, SINCE THAT SHOULD BE DONE IN A MULTILATERAL FORUM, ADDING THAT SINCE THERE WAS NOT "AN ACT OF 200 MILES TO CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF IATTC YET," HE DID NOT SEE HOW WE COULD RENEgotiate THE TREATY ON THAT BASIS. WHEN THE U.S. PRESSED ON EXACTLY WHAT SPECIFICS THE MEXICANS WISHED TO DISCUSS, THEY BECAME SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE AND FINALLY STATED THEY WOULD CONTACT MEXICO CITY FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

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5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THIS MEETING, IT SEEMS UNCLEAR WHETHER MEXICOY REALLY INTENDS TO ASK FOR A RE-NEGOTIATION OF IATTC THIS YEAR. THEY MAY BE UNDECIDED AT THIS TIME, AND A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION LOLL BE REQUIRED. IF THEY WISH TO RE-NEGOTIATE THIS YEAR ON BASIS OF A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL THAT THEY WOULD ASSERT A UNILATERAL CLAIM FIRST IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR THE NEGOTIATION. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, PRESAGE A FULL-SCALE

NEGOTIATION WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TOTAL U.S. FISHERIES POLICY.
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MEXICO WILL DECIDE TO GO ALONG WITH IATTC FOR
ANOTHER YEAR WITH THE SAME REGULATORY SYSTEM AND MERELY ATTEMPT TO
NEGOTIATE A BETTER QUOTA FOR HERSELF.

6. CONCERNING THE PROPOSED U.S./MEXICAN MEETING APPARENTLY SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER, WE BELIEVE DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING MEETING SHOULD BE REASSESSED IN LIGHT OF ABOVE. IF MEXICO INTENDS TO SUPPORT IATTC FOR ANOTHER YEAR, THEN MEETING COULD BE USEFUL IN AVOIDING CONFRONTATION AT THE REGULAR OCTOBER SESSION. IF ON OTHER HAND THEY WISH TO RE-NEGOTIATE ENTIRE TREATY, IT WOULD SEEM THAT BECAUSE OF IMPLICATION FOR LOS POLICIES AND IN ORDER TO PRESERVE NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY, U.S. SHOULD INDICATE THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE FULL IATTC MEMBERSHIP PRESENT.

STEVENSON

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